

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

SCSE-00 SCA-01 SCCT-01 L-03 H-02 PRS-01 PA-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 FBIE-00 SY-05 /033 W

----- 117026

O R 181725Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 655

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

USCINCSO

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 3085

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: SEVEN BODIES LOCATED

BEGIN SUMMARY: SEVEN BODIES WERE LOCATED IN OLANCHO  
ON JULY 17. FIVE THAT WERE IDENTIFIED INCLUDED  
U.S. CITIZEN MICHAEL JEROME CYPHER (FATHER CASIMIRO) AND  
COLUMBIAN CITIZENS FATHER IVAN BETANCOURT AND MARIA  
ELENA BOLIVAR VARGAS. WORK IS CONTINUING TO REMOVE  
SEVERAL MORE BODIES LOCATED IN WELL. END SUMMARY.

1. A GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED JULY 17 CONTAINED  
FOLLOWING MAIN POINTS:

(A) THE HIGH LEVEL MILITARY COMMISSION INFORMED THE  
HIGH COMMAND THAT SEVEN BODIES WERE FOUND IN  
EXCAVATING A WELL ON THE PROPERTY OF MANUEL ZELAYA;  
(B) FIVE OF THE SEVEN CORPSES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS  
JEROME CYPHER (FATHER CASIMIRO), FATHER IVAN  
BETANCOURT, JOSE A. MARTINEZ, RUTH ARGENTINA GARCIA  
AND MARIA ELENA BOLIVAR VARGAS (COLUMBIAN);  
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(C) THE BODIES WERE FOUND IN AN ADVANCED STATE OF

DECOMPOSITION AND PARTIALLY DISFIGURED;  
(D) THE BODIES OF FATHER CASIMIRO, FATHER BETANCOURT  
AND MARIA ELENA BOLIVAR VARGAS WERE FLOWN TO TEGUCIGALPA;  
(E) WORK IS CONTINUING TO REMOVE SEVERAL MORE BODIES  
LOCATED IN WELL;  
(F) THE REMAINS OF FATHER CASIMIRO WILL BE DELIVERED  
TO THE U.S. CONSUL AND THE REMAINS OF FATHER BETANCOURT  
AND MARIA ELENA BOLIVAR VARGAS WILL BE DELIVERED TO  
THE COLUMBIAN AMBASSADOR; AND  
(G) THE HONDURAN GOVERNMENT WILL RENDER ASSISTANCE  
TO THE U.S. CONSUL AND COLUMBIAN AMBASSADOR IN  
SENDING THE BODIES TO THEIR RESPECTIVE FAMILIES.  
SANCHEZ

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MURDER  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750249-0164  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 05 MAR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SEVEN BODIES LOCATED BEGIN SUMMARY: SEVEN BODIES WERE LOCATED IN OLANCHO  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, CDES, HO, (BETANCOURT, IVAN), (BOLIVAR VARGAS, MARIA E), (CYPHER, MICHAEL J), (MARTINEZ, JOSE A), (ARGENTINA GARCIA, RUTH)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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